

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH PIERRE SALINGER

OCTOBER 23, 1962

5:30 PM EDT

TUESDAY

MR. SALINGER: Let me go through these matters you have in your hands.

The President has signed 44 bills and issued two memoranda of disapproval. In that list of 44, let me call your attention to five of the bills: H.R. 8140 is the so-called conflicts of interest bill; H.R. 10541 is a bill to provide assistance to States and communities to carry out intensive vaccination programs; H. R. 12135 is the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1962; H.R. 12276 is the District of Columbia Appropriations Bill which provides \$288,986,350 to the District of Columbia out of its funds in the Treasury, and \$59,241,000 of Federal payments and loans to the District. H.R. 13175 is the Foreign Aid Appropriation Bill. That provides for a total of \$6.3 billion. \$3.929 billion is for foreign aid programs. The remainder is for related programs, such as Peace Corps, USIA, and others.

Q. Pierre, does this complete all the bills that were on the President's desk?

MR. SALINGER: No. There are eleven more bills to go.

The two memoranda of disapproval are private bills.

Q. Does someone know where Mrs. Stephenson is from? The other one has it.

MR. SALINGER: Wayne, could you get that?

Q. The other one says it.

MR. SALINGER: The President signed an Executive Order designating public international organizations entitled to certain privileges. This is merely a designation which gives these organizations the same privileges, exemptions and immunities given to other international organizations in the United States; the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, and the International Pacific Halibut Commission. I save those for dull days.

The President has signed a proclamation on immigration quotas. This is a routine proclamation extending quotas to new nations, immigration quotas to new nations of the minimum quotas of 100 each, to Tanganyika, Western Samoa, Rwanda, Burundi, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago.

I believe that is the extent of the papers you have in your hands. Before you start asking me questions about the proclamation, the final work is being done on the proclamation. We expect the proclamation to be issued early this evening. I would think the earliest would be about 7:00.

MR. SALINGER: The President does not plan to make any statement in connection with it.

Q. Pierre, could you explain at this time, if you haven't already, the purpose of this proclamation?

MR. SALINGER: I would rather wait for the proclamation itself, Eddie. I think it speaks for itself.

Q. Can you give us any idea about the timing between the signing of the proclamation and its effectiveness?

MR. SALINGER: Again, I would just as soon wait until we get the proclamation.

Q. How long is it likely to be?

MR. SALINGER: Before you get it or the document itself?

Q. The document itself.

MR. SALINGER: I can't tell you that.

Q. Will we be allowed to take pictures of the signing?

MR. SALINGER: I don't think there will be a formal signing involved. But I will let you know.

Q. Will there be anyone from the State Department, like lawyers and so forth, here?

MR. SALINGER: We don't plan to have anybody here.

Q. Is it fair to assume that the quarantine is not in effect until the proclamation is signed?

MR. SALINGER: I will answer those questions when I get the proclamation.

Q. How about a calling list for tomorrow?

MR. SALINGER: I don't have one at the moment. I may have one by the time we have our next gathering.

Q. Is there a meeting planned by the President with the Congressional leaders tomorrow?

MR. SALINGER: The President is going to meet the Congressional leaders tomorrow afternoon at five o'clock.

Q. What kind of messages have you been getting from Members of the House and Senate around the country? Any reading on them?

MR. SALINGER: We have received some messages from Members of the House.

Q. We can't hear back here.

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Q. When will the President sign it, Pierre?

MR. SALINGER: When I announce it, it will be signed.

Q. You are going to announce it? The President is not going to?

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Q. Do you know how many, Pierre?

MR. SALINGER: From the House and Senate?

Q. Yes.

MR. SALINGER: About 50.

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Q. Can you update the public figure?

MR. SALINGER: It is in excess of 5,000, the figure just handed me before this briefing began. The ratio is remaining about the same, 12 to 1.

Q. What is the ratio of the Congressional messages?

MR. SALINGER: All the ones that sent messages were behind the President's stand.

Q. Was it bipartisan or were they all Democrats?

MR. SALINGER: There were Republicans and Democrats in the list.

Q. Has the President heard from either Mr. Eisenhower or Mr. Hoover?

MR. SALINGER: Not that I know of.

Q. Will tomorrow's meeting relate to any further planned development or a survey?

MR. SALINGER: I believe it will be bringing the leadership up on the situation.

Q. Is the proportion just about 12 to 1?

MR. SALINGER: Yes, just about 12 to 1.

Q. What was the latest figure you mentioned?

MR. SALINGER: In excess of 5,000.

Q. Has the President conferred with people today?

MR. SALINGER: A number of people.

Q. Mr. Rusk?

MR. SALINGER: I will not spell them out.

Q. Can you clear up this matter of survey at the East Gate? Is it checking packages?

MR. SALINGER: They started out checking cameras but they gave that up as a terrible job and are just checking packages.

Q. What about women's handbags? Are they being inspected?

MR. SALINGER: I don't think they are now.

Q. Is there any X-Ray equipment in use?

MR. SALINGER: I wouldn't comment on that.

Q. You said this morning about what Kohler was handed. Have you any more definite information on that?

MR. SALINGER: No. I have no further comment on that.

MR. SALINGER: Yes.

Q. Has the President seen it?

MR. SALINGER: Yes.

Q. Have you any comment on the OAS --

MR. SALINGER: No.

Q. Is it in the form of a response to the letter?

MR. SALINGER: I am not going to comment on that. I said this morning that he received the statement which was later put out by the Soviet Government. I will not go beyond that.

Q. Received it in advance?

MR. SALINGER: He received it simultaneously with its release, as I understand it.

Q. Pierre, to go back to these tourists, they are still required to put packages in some kind of a truck?

MR. SALINGER: A trailer.

Q. But they are allowed to take their cameras?

MR. SALINGER: Small cameras are not being checked. Large camera bags are being checked.

Q. Pierre, has there been a report of any incidents between U.S. Armed Forces and Cuban forces?

MR. SALINGER: None that I am aware of.

Q. Pierre, on the contents of this proclamation, have you given this a title?

MR. SALINGER: No, and I don't plan to do that until I give it to you.

Q. Will it be for immediate release?

Q. You don't say what the proclamation is about?

MR. SALINGER: Everybody seems to know.

Q. Could you say?

MR. SALINGER: No, I am not going to say.

Q. Is the NSC or Executive Committee to meet again before in the morning?

MR. SALINGER: They will meet tomorrow at ten. I don't know of any plans to meet before then.

Q. Did the President watch Governor Stevenson?

MR. SALINGER: Part of the address, yes.

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Q. You said this morning about what Kohler was handed. Have you any more definite information on that?

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Q. Has that message reached the White House officially?

MR. SALINGER: Do you mean the draft of the Soviet statement?

Q. Yes.

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Q. Are any of our Naval ships in direct contact with any Soviet ships yet?

MR. SALINGER: I am not aware of any.

Q. If there is any kind of an incident, where could we look for guidance as to getting information about it, here,

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the Defense Department or the State Department?

MR. SALINGER: We are going to determine that at the time of the incident.

Q. Pierre, has any ship been stopped, from any government?

MR. SALINGER: No, sir.

Q. No ships have been stop ed.

Q. Can you tell us any precedent for the issuance of a proclamation such as we are going to get today?

MR. SALINGER: I will try to get that information for you.

Q. What was the question?

MR. SALINGER: Mr. Folliard wanted to know the precedents of the issuance of a proclamation such as that as will be issued today.

Q. Can you tell us what the President has been doing this afternoon?

MR. SALINGER: He has been having some meetings.

Q. NSC?

MR. SALINGER: No.

Q. Have they met today at all?

MR. SALINGER: Excuse me one minute, please.

Q. Can you give us a full list?

MR. SALINGER: I did this morning.

-- the Undersecretary of State, the Deputy Secretary --

Q. Is that Ball?

MR. SALINGER: That is Ball. The Deputy Secretary of Defense, Mr. Gilpatric; the Ambassador at Large, Mr. Thompson, who I gave you this morning; the Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, Mr. Bundy; the Special Counsel to the President, Mr. Sorensen. And these five will be in attendance at all future meetings of this group as well as the seven I named this morning.

Q. Can you say anything more about these meetings this afternoon?

MR. SALINGER: No. I didn't say and I am not going to say.

Q. Would you say that these people were there but not members of the Executive Committee?

MR. SALINGER: Yes, they are members of the Executive Committee. It has been augmented with these five.

Q. It is now how many?

MR. SALINGER: Twelve men.

Q. Can we have a temporary one hour lid, do you think?

MR. SALINGER: I will give you a lid until seven o'clock.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END